

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 5 and 8-24. Claim 13, which the Examiner has allowed, has been amended to improve its form. Claim 17 has also been amended to improve its form. Claim 12 has been amended to better define the invention, and new claims 21-24 have been added, similar to claims 13-16, but specifying that the cage has cage guide ridges, which engage in centering grooves in the outer hub that are formed in ridges between the raceways. In addition, the specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis of the subject matter of claims 15-17 and 19-20. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in FIGS. 1-2 and 6-7 and the original claims. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 13 and 14 were allowed; however, the remaining claims were rejected for the reasons set forth in the Office Action. Specifically, claims 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and claims 5 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Cermak et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0018369*.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the Examiner's position was that the following limitations were unsupported in the original application as filed:

- a. Claims 15 and 19: "the shape of the inner and outer hub raceways differs from the shape of the centering grooves"
- b. Claims 16 and 20: "the size of the cross section of the centering grooves is smaller than the size of the cross section of the inner and outer raceways"
- c. Claim 17: "the cage is pivotable with respect to only one of the outer hub or the inner hub."

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in §112, the detailed description of the invention need only be in such particularity as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention without

extensive experimentation. With respect to claims 15 and 19 (different shape of the hub raceways and centering grooves), it is respectfully submitted that FIGS. 1-2 or 6-7 of Applicants' disclosure show that the shape of the centering grooves differs from the shape of the inner and outer hub raceways. It is respectfully submitted that this disclosure provides sufficient guidance to one skilled in the art to be able to construct a sliding articulation in which the size or shape of the inner and outer hub raceways differ from the size or shape of the centering grooves. The same applies to claims 16 and 20 (size of the cross section). Upon reading the specification, in light of the drawings, one skilled in the art would know how to construct a sliding articulation so that the size or shape of the inner and outer hub raceways differ from the size or shape of the centering grooves and so that the size of the cross section of the centering grooves is smaller than the size of the cross section of the inner and outer hub raceways. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15, 16, 19 and 20 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and that the rejection on this basis should be withdrawn. To that end, Applicants have amended the specification to provide express antecedent basis for the subject matter of claims 15, 16, 19 and 20 as shown in the original disclosure as filed.

With respect to claim 17, again it is respectfully submitted that for example, FIGS. 1-2 or FIGS. 6-7 show that the cage is guided either in the inner or outer hub such that due to the length of the guiding surface between the cage and the hub, the cage is not pivotable with respect to the outer hub (FIGS. 1-2) or the inner hub (FIGS. 6-7), respectively. Thus the cage is pivotable only with respect to the other hub (inner hub in FIGS. 1-2 and outer hub in FIGS. 6-7). It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would appreciate from Applicants' disclosure as originally filed that the cage is pivotable with respect to only one of the outer hub or the inner hub as recited in claim 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 (and claim 18 which depends thereon) fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and that the rejection on this basis should be withdrawn as well.

Again, Applicants have amended the specification to expressly provide antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 17 as shown in the disclosure as originally filed.

With respect to the rejection of claims 5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the Examiner has taken the position that the claims

do not preclude the presence of multiple balls in each pair of raceways, requiring only that each ball of the plurality of balls be accommodated in a pair of raceways, which in the Examiner's view is shown in *Cermak et al.* The Examiner also noted that an angular movement capability is not recited in the claims and therefore it was irrelevant whether the joint in *Cermak et al.* is prohibited from any angular movement.

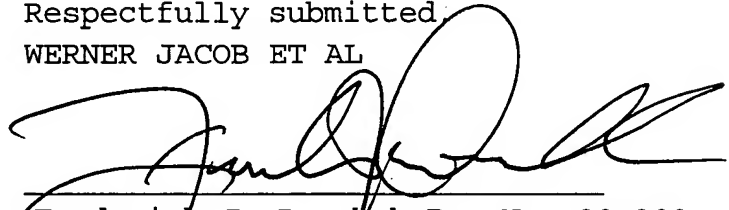
In response, Applicants have amended claim 12 to explicitly state that the inner hub is pivotable with respect to the outer hub and that only one single ball is accommodated in each pair of outer hub and inner hub raceways, which it is respectfully submitted clearly distinguishes Applicants' invention as recited in claim 12, as amended, over *Cermak et al.* as *Cermak et al.* clearly allows only axial displacement of the inner and outer hub and prevents any pivoting between the inner hub and outer hub. In contrast, Applicants' sliding articulation as recited in claim 12 as amended refers to an articulation which explicitly allows the inner hub to pivot with respect to the outer hub which is achieved by having just one single ball in each pair of raceways. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 as amended, together with

claims 5 and 8-11 which depend thereon, are patentable over *Cermak et al.*

New claims 21-24 are based on original claim 7 and the embodiments of FIGS. 1-2. Although original claim 7 was withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as directed to a non-elected species, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-24 should be rejoined and considered by the Examiner as new claim 21 is similar to claim 13 which the Examiner has allowed, except for specifying that the cage has cage guide ridges that engage in centering grooves of the outer hub (as opposed to the inner hub), that are formed in ridges between the raceways. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-24 should be considered by the Examiner and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 12, 13 and 17 have been amended, and new claims 21-24 have been added. The specification has also been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
WERNER JACOB ET AL



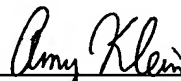
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for one-month Extension of Time

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EM 217 294 233 US
Date of Deposit: August 1, 2008

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